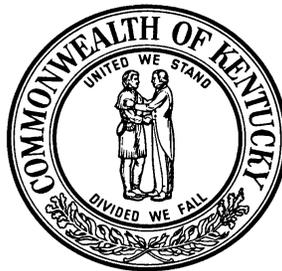


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
PULASKI COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Period
January 5, 2015 Through December 31, 2015**



**MIKE HARMON
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT OF THE
PULASKI COUNTY CLERK

For Period
January 5, 2015 Through December 31, 2015

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Pulaski County Clerk's audit for the period January 5, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees increased by \$87,019 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$815,079 as of December 31, 2015. Receipts increased by \$279,745 from the prior year and disbursements increased by \$192,726.

Lease Obligations:

Lease principal agreements totaled \$88,645 as of December 31, 2015. Future principal and interest payments of \$88,645 are needed to meet these obligations.

Report Comment:

2015-001 The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Receipts, Disbursements, And Reconciliations

Deposits:

The county clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Steve Kelley, Pulaski County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Linda Burnett, Pulaski County Clerk
Members of the Pulaski County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the County Clerk of Pulaski County, Kentucky, for the period January 5, 2015 through December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



The Honorable Steve Kelley, Pulaski County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Linda Burnett, Pulaski County Clerk
Members of the Pulaski County Fiscal Court

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Pulaski County Clerk on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the Pulaski County Clerk, as of December 31, 2015, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Pulaski County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2015, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report July 27, 2016 on our consideration of the Pulaski County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

2015-001 The County Clerk’s Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Receipts, Disbursements, And Reconciliations

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 27, 2016

PULASKI COUNTY
LINDA BURNETT, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Period January 5, 2015 Through December 31, 2015

Receipts

State Fees For Services		\$	25,268
Fiscal Court			19,150
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$	2,544,158	
Usage Tax		9,624,923	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		4,803,450	
Notary Fees		6,490	
Clerk Lien Fees		41,591	
Other-			
Marriage Licenses		18,283	
Deed Transfer Tax		194,543	
Delinquent Tax		711,994	17,945,432
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts		64,653	
Real Estate Mortgages		103,936	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements		197,350	
Powers of Attorney		12,520	
All Other Recordings		73,559	
Charges for Other Services-			
Copywork		44,926	
Postage		4,144	
Delinquent Tax Releases		3,150	504,238
Other:			
Refunds		21,882	
Interest Earned		9,627	
Returned Checks		1,221	
Miscellaneous Income		23,553	
Change Fund Reduction (See Note 5)		(4,800)	51,483
Total Receipts			18,545,571

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

PULASKI COUNTY
LINDA BURNETT, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Period January 5, 2015 Through December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle:

Licenses and Transfers	\$ 1,714,008	
Usage Tax	9,337,691	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,939,409	

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees:

Delinquent Tax	91,183	
Legal Process Tax	64,196	
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	63,492	
Miscellaneous	100	\$ 13,210,079

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	307,004	
Delinquent Tax	33,828	
Deed Transfer Tax	185,855	526,687

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	2,372,169	
Delinquent Tax	358,985	2,731,154

Payments to Sheriff

58,162

Payments to County Attorney

94,098

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-		
Deputies' Salaries	730,222	
Contracted Services-		
Advertising	19,364	
Printing and Binding	5,336	
Maintenance / Other	50,512	
Materials and Supplies-		
Office Supplies	22,967	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

PULASKI COUNTY
LINDA BURNETT, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Period January 5, 2015 Through December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay: (Continued)

Other Charges-			
Conventions and Travel	\$	3,322	
Dues		8,206	
Postage		16,912	
Returned Checks		9,539	
Telephone		28,856	
Credit Card Fees		16,559	
Errors and Omissions Insurance		6,564	
Refunds		22,110	
Miscellaneous		8,405	\$ 948,874
<u>Capital Outlay-</u>			
Office Equipment		7,552	
Election Equipment		6,032	
Records Update		25,000	38,584
 Debt Service:			
Leases			<u>23,695</u>
Total Disbursements			<u>\$ 17,631,333</u>
Net Receipts			914,238
Less: Statutory Maximum			<u>94,574</u>
Excess Fees			819,664
Less: Expense Allowance			3,600
Training Incentive Benefit			<u>985</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2015			815,079
Payments to Fiscal Court - December 31, 2015			800,000
- December 31, 2015			<u>11,193</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			<u>\$ 3,886</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

PULASKI COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the county clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the county clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2015 services
- Reimbursements for 2015 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2015

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the county treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the county clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

PULASKI COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2015
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits

The county official and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS). This is a cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, which covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute five percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute six percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 17.67 percent for the first six months and 17.06 percent for the last six months.

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2014, plan members who began participating on, or after, January 1, 2014, were required to contribute to the Cash Balance Plan. The Cash Balance Plan is known as a hybrid plan because it has characteristics of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. Members in the plan contribute a set percentage of their salary each month to their own accounts. Members contribute five percent (nonhazardous) of their annual creditable compensation and one percent to the health insurance fund which is not credited to the member's account and is not refundable. The employer contribution rate is set annually by the Board based on an actuarial valuation. The employer contributes a set percentage of the member's salary. Each month, when employer contributions are received, an employer pay credit is deposited to the member's account. A member's account is credited with a four percent (nonhazardous) employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 must meet the rule of 87 (member's age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service credit.

CERS also provides post-retirement health care coverage as follows:

For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

Years of Service	% paid by Insurance Fund	% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction
20 or more	100%	0%
15-19	75%	25%
10-14	50%	50%
4-9	25%	75%
Less than 4	0%	100%

PULASKI COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits (Continued)

As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participation on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of ten years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually based on the retiree cost of living adjustment, which is updated annually due to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Historical trend information showing the CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The Pulaski County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the county clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the county clerk's deposits may not be returned. The Pulaski County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240. As of December 31, 2015, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 4. Lease Agreements

A. Mall Rental

The Pulaski County Clerk's office was committed to a lease agreement for the office space within the Somerset Mall. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$1,650 for 48 months to be completed on December 31, 2018. The total balance of the agreement was \$59,400 as of December 31, 2015.

B. Mailing System

The Pulaski County Clerk's office was committed to a lease agreement for a mailing system. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$312 or quarterly payments of \$937 for 48 months to be completed on December 31, 2018. The total balance of the agreement was \$11,245 as of December 31, 2015.

PULASKI COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 4. Lease Agreements (Continued)

C. Land Record Management System

The Pulaski County Clerk's office was committed to a service agreement for software licensing, software support, and hardware maintenance to support a land management system. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$1,500 for 24 months to be completed on December 31, 2017. The total balance of the agreement was \$18,000 as of December 31, 2015.

D. Equipment for Land Records

The Pulaski County Clerk's office was committed to a service agreement for computers, monitors, and scanners necessary for data indexing, imaging, retrieval, and printing of imaged land records recorded in the clerk's office. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$2,200. This agreement was effective January 1, 2015 and will remain in effect until terminated by either party.

Note 5. Change Fund

The fiscal court authorized the county clerk to retain \$4,800 in excess fees to be used as a change fund during her term in office. Therefore, the total receipts shown on the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees have been reduced by this amount. The change fund will be deposited and paid to the fiscal court as excess fees at the end of the clerk's term in office.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Steve Kelley, Pulaski County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Linda Burnett, Pulaski County Clerk
Members of the Pulaski County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Pulaski County Clerk for the period January 5, 2015 through December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated July 27, 2016. The Pulaski County Clerk's financial statement is prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Pulaski County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Pulaski County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Pulaski County Clerk's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, which is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation as item 2015-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Pulaski County Clerk's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

County Clerk's Response to Finding

The Pulaski County Clerk's response to the finding identified in our audit are described in the accompanying comment and recommendation. The Pulaski County Clerk's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 27, 2016

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

PULASKI COUNTY
LINDA BURNETT, COUNTY CLERK
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Period January 5, 2015 Through December 31, 2015

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2015-001 The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Receipts, Disbursements, And Reconciliations

The county clerk lacks adequate segregation of duties over receipts, disbursements and reconciliations. The clerk had segregated the cash receipts duties since the bookkeeper did not collect cash. Instead the bookkeeper recounted the cash after the individual deputies had reconciled their cash drawers and compared them to the computer prepared daily checkout. The bookkeeper was also responsible for posting adjusting entries to the receipts and disbursements ledger, preparing bank reconciliations, preparing all disbursements excluding payroll, and preparing all monthly and quarterly reports. Lack of adequate segregation of duties can result in undetected misstatements and in accurate financial reporting. To adequately protect assets, effective internal controls require separation of duties involving deposit preparation, recording of receipts, and reconciling the bank accounts. Additionally, proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

Effective internal controls dictate that essential duties should be separated. If duties cannot be adequately segregated due to a limited number of staff, compensating controls may be implemented to reduce the risks associated with a lack of adequate segregation of duties. We recommend the duties over receipts, disbursements, and bank reconciliations be separated. The clerk can also strengthen internal controls by implementing the following compensating controls:

- An independent employee could compare the daily checkout sheet to the clerk's deposits and receipts ledger. The comparison should be documented.
- The clerk could be required to sign all checks and comparison to supporting documentation should be documented.
- An independent employee could review the bookkeeper's bank reconciliations for accuracy and compare to ending bank balances. This review should be documented on the bank reconciliations.

County Clerk's Response: This is an ongoing continuing problem in smaller offices. Efforts will be made (are being made) to further segregate duties.

